

# KCDHH

Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



## STAFF ACTIVITIES

April 1st - June 30th, 2002

### EQUIPLINK



### TELELINK



Submitted

### DEAFLINK



By

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### ACCESS CENTER



## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### ***Budget***

As most of you know, the state legislature failed to enact a budget for this biennium. Governor Paul Patton has developed a “spending plan” which will enable state government to proceed “business as usual” instead of shutting down state government. It is believed that there will be an enacted budget in September, if all goes well.

A fourth round of state agency budget reductions is also expected due to possibility of the state government exhausting the 150M reserve and lapses of funding the agency may experience in FY 02.

### ***Personnel***

Interim Reviews (part of Performance Evaluations) were conducted on all eligible staff in the month of April. The Office of Performance Management audited one-half of last year’s personnel evaluations to determine if our agency was in compliance. This audit was done throughout the state and the individuals whose evaluations were inspected were randomly chosen. The KCDHH was found to be in total compliance.

This summer, the Commission was delighted to have Ms. Mindy Abshire, daughter of Mr. Arthur Abshire, as a full-time summer employee, Ms. Melissa Boggs, an ECU Deaf Education student, as a practicum student two days per week, and Ms. Margie Bridges as a data entry assistant. They helped tremendously with DeafFestival details and the event would not have been as successful without them. Ms. Boggs has completed her practicum, Ms. Abshire will be with us until the end of August, and Ms. Bridges will soon be returning to Texas.

## **KCDHH GOALS**

**GOAL I: Improve, strengthen and develop services, including human and communication services.**

### **Office of Equitable Access**

#### ***Kentucky - Deaf Access Consortium (KDAC)***

All of the Kentucky – Deaf Access Consortium partners: KCDHH, ECU-ITP, DVR and MHMR have been submitting quarterly reports to ECU on personnel and non-personnel expenditures for the project to be reviewed by the Technology Opportunity Program (TOP)

federal agency liaison. KDAC has started advertising for a Project Director and Outreach Coordinator. It is hoped that these positions can be filled this fall. Team leaders will hire personnel with the approval of TOP.

### ***Access Center***

The Access Center has received and processed assignments, stipends, and other various requests during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of this Fiscal Year. The following tables and narratives explain how the work the Access Center affects state agencies, consumers, interpreters, and captioners.

### ***Interpreting and Captioning Assignments***

		<b>Unfilled Assignments would Occurred 4/1/02-6/30/02</b>	<b>that have</b>	<b>Average # of Contacts Required to fill assignments</b>
AC: Request for Interpreting	69	1	384.5	5
AC: Request for Captioning	2	0	22.0	11
AC: Request for Videoconferencing	Not recorded			
AC: Stipends	13 requested	9 provided	Total Money Disbursed:	\$1065.00

### ***National Interpreter Certification Opportunities***

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Interpreter Assessment was given on April 26-27, the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) performance test was given on May 3, and the RID written test was given on June 1. A total of 22 evaluations were conducted. There is currently no waiting list for the NAD test.

Since KCDHH began aggressively providing opportunities and stipends for interpreters to become certified, and in lieu of the implementation of licensure that will take effect July 1, 2003, KCDHH is aware of approximately 210 certified interpreters in Kentucky. This is not the total number of certified interpreters, since notification of certification is not yet required; instead, this is the total number of interpreters who are included in the interpreter directory. When licensure takes effect, requiring working interpreters to show proof of certification as one of the requirements for licensure, it will finally enable an accurate count of all certified interpreters in the state.

## ***TDD Distribution Program***

At least 48 trainings by Bob Stuckey from the Kentucky Relay Services were provided to consumers who received STEs from the TDD Distribution Program. An agreement between the Relay Services and KCDHH TDD Distribution Program was developed to ensure that one to one training for new users of Assistive technology can take place. Bob generously was able to do that ... thanks to Hamilton Relay Services. Hamilton Relay Services also was a generous sponsor of this year's Kentucky DeaFestival.

KCDHH representatives have been involved with the Public Service Commission's Relay Advisory Board, which has been meeting to discuss Video Relay Interpreting as a part of the standard relay service for Kentucky. Inclusion of VRI will mean the addition of videoconferencing software to the TDD Distribution Program.

The TDD Distribution Program Annual Report for the fiscal year of 01-02 has been completed and submitted to the legislature. Fiscal Year 02 books have been closed, with 579 applicants receiving equipment and 945 pieces of equipment distributed to those applicants. A copy of the TDD Distribution Program Annual Report is attached.

**KCDHH Goal II: Serve as a clearinghouse of current information for state and national resources to provide appropriate information and referral services.**

## **Office of Information Services**

### ***Information Technology***

A consultant was utilized to improve the centralized database. The following changes were made: function was added that upgrades the DeaFestival mailing list when the check box on a person's role is changed; separate buttons were added to print each interpreter certification level; agency reports were changed with the addition of reporting by date range, internal effort and external outcomes reports; expanding codes to titles and miscellaneous typographical and formatting corrections; in-state option was added to the interpreter role; a captioner option was added to the interpreter role and rotation button; forms were added to the database to enter all information in order to have proper case names and addresses; and a KDAC database containing forms and reports for tracking correspondence, meetings, training, web hits, media dissemination, testing and installation was created.

The latest version of Antigen (6.5) for Microsoft Exchange was installed. The new version gives advanced anti-virus protection using two detection engines, provides enhanced support for worm and macro virus, automatically receives software updates and provides real-time web page scanning for pages that try to pass malicious code. This upgrade was done to ensure that hackers and viruses do not have access to the KCDHH network.

In preparations for DeaFestival 2002, it was discovered that the Horse Park facilities may not have had the needed resources to support the technology needs on that day. Videoconferencing

via satellite Internet access was explored as a result. An added bonus to this exploration was working with the Kentucky Department of Library and Archives to field test this technology application at Grayson County, where one of their bookmobiles was located. Videoconferencing via wireless technology is feasible at some later time. Many benefits to the deaf and hard of hearing communities in this field not yet fully realized, including video streaming, another new expanding technology.

### ***Web Update***

The work on the KCDHH Home Page was mostly on the DeaFestival 2002 by updating the DeaFestival home page with information on sponsors, the collaboration with the National Association of the Deaf, bios on performers and visual artists, accommodations for festivalgoers and directions to the Horse Park. The design of the DeaFestival home page was very well received. The totals of web hits are as follows:

### ***Web Hits Counter:***

<b>Month</b>	<b>KCDHH Home Page</b>	<b>Equitable Access Home Page</b>	<b>Info Services Home Page</b>	<b>DeaFestival Home Page</b>	<b>Info Requests</b>
April	697	47	33	128	28
May	198	8	2	56	15
June	947	49	16	644	87
<b>Total</b>	<b>1138</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>120</b>

### ***Information and Referral Requests***

The KCDHH, in addition to DeaFestival production preparations, has been able to handle 1928 requests from April 1, 2002 to June 30, 2002. In this quarter, we documented over (because of DeaFestival and Tour de DeaFestival to NAD) 10,000 flyers and related materials that were mass distributed, 15,000 face to face contacts promoting the KCDHH and Kentucky-DeaFestival at the Horse Park and in Washington, D.C., four shows at the NAD conference which were produced by the Kentucky-DeaFestival staff, where each show had over 1,500 persons in attendance.

In addition, requests for information were received from several different countries, including Uzbekistan, Turkey, Indonesia, Latvia, Russia, the Ukraine, Panama, Yugoslavia, and others.

Formats for reporting the requests and their numbers are currently being revised, and will be reported in the next agency report.

The KCDHH display has seen great improvements over the past quarter. The design features "Faces of Kentucky," a collage of people the KCDHH has served in the past twenty years of existence. A truly innovative display, it will be a two sided, four bannered display very unique to KCDHH. The design and text will be finalized and printed in the next quarter.

## ***DEAFESTIVAL 2002***

DeaFestival – Kentucky 2002 kicked off on June 28<sup>th</sup> with the Visual Artists’ Buyers’ Night, a new addition designed to provide visual artists more opportunities to market their art. This specific arena allowed performing artists, visual artists, and the general public a “sneak preview” of the caliber of art represented, as well as creating an environment where the artists could be taken seriously as professionals and not as hobbyists.

June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2002 dawned bright and warm; the rain that had plagued Kentucky the previous week cleared, setting the stage for the beautiful backdrop of the Kentucky Horse Park to welcome the conservatively estimated 8,000 festival-goers. The Horse Park charged a fee for parking and they reported 6,800 cars paid for parking. If two persons rode in each car, you can see the total would far outnumber 8,000. All who attended enjoyed each component of DeaFestival.

The Spotlights stage welcomed renowned performers such as Phyllis Frelich, the Wild Zappers, Terryline, and the all-deaf band Beethoven’s Nightmare. The 70’s theme led us to explore the “freeness” of that decade. Inspired by the Native American hoop dances of Burton Bird, the crowd was immeasurably moved by Ed Chevy’s interpretation of the Lee Greenwood song “God Bless the U.S.A.” No one will ever forget the vivid images he portrayed.

Phyllis Frelich also enjoyed a huge influence on Kentucky’s finest and brightest students. In a special performance, students from the Governor’s School for the Arts and the Governor’s Scholars’ Program learned of the trials and triumphs of being a deaf actress in Hollywood.

The Culture and Traditions stage, designed to educate hearing and deaf alike about deaf culture and sign language, explored everything from Walter Kelley and Melanie McKay-Cody’s discussions of Native American sign language to Garland Best’s depiction of the history of Kentucky deaf people.

The Children’s Program, Hands Across the World, offered a program focusing on one agenda for the first time. Peter Cook and Todd Czubek hosted the Harry Potter-themed tent, taking children and adults on a wonderful journey into the parallel worlds of Harry Potter and Deaf Culture. The two created such a real environment of Wizard School in which children of all ages participated, including a “Spells and Potions” class, exploring the subtleness of expression in sign language, and a rousing game of Quidditch (a fictional wizard game similar to soccer and basketball on broomsticks), that everyone hated to see it end.

The Visual Artists’ Studio continued from the night before, with the artists cooperating to create a “Horse of a Different Color,” a fiberglass horse painted by each of the artists in attendance. Artists from Panama and India sat alongside artisans from Kentucky and Texas displaying their many varied works.

Without sponsors such as Kodak, Hamilton Relay, Sprint Relay, BellSouth, Deaf Wireless, Eastern Kentucky University/Vocation Rehabilitation/Center on Deafness, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Kentucky State Health Insurance Program, the Kentucky Foundation for Women, the Center for Accessible Living, and Gallaudet University, along with many other in-kind donations, this event would not have been possible. Since the first DeaFestival – Kentucky in Danville in 1996, this event has been open and free to the public while other festivals around the nation charge admission, some of which tend to be very expensive. It is our intention that DeaFestival will remain free for all deaf and hard of hearing citizens of the commonwealth to enjoy.

As DeaFestival – Kentucky 2002 came to a rousing close with Beethoven's Nightmare and the Wild Zappers, the Tour de DeaFestival kicked into gear. DeaFestival – Kentucky went on the road, partnering with the National Association of the Deaf to provide, for the first time, a Cultural Extravaganza for their Conference. DeaFestival – Kentucky was woven into and throughout the conference, during the Opening Ceremonies, the President's reception, the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, the Cultural Arts banquet, and the Closing Ceremonies. The climax of the week was the July 4<sup>th</sup> program, packed full of historic figures such as Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Harriett Tubman, a Civil War soldier, Daniel Boone, the Statue of Liberty and more, all emceed by Uncle Sam. The stage was simply lit in soft white and blue, with Chuck Baird's powerful 6' by 6' painting entitled "America" as the focus. The painting made such an impact that the delegates from NAD conference voted to form a committee to work with Chuck Baird and the Federal Government to make "America" into a postage stamp, a direct result of the collaborative efforts to showcase visual and performing artists. NAD also moved that DeaFestival – Kentucky continue collaborative efforts for the cultural enrichment of the NAD conference.

The festival that started with a dream continues with a vision as DeaFestival – Kentucky gears up for its next biennial event, to be held in Louisville, KY at the Kentucky Center for the Arts on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Memories from DeaFestival – Kentucky 2002 will continue to entertain us until then.

**KCDHHH Goal III: Initiate and advise the development of public policy and systems change efforts in cooperation with the Governor, General Assembly, public and private entities and local, state and federal governments.**

***Staff attended or participated:***

On April 12<sup>th</sup> –13<sup>th</sup>: March of Dimes Walk event at the Capitol.

On April 12: Humantarium Board Meeting to discuss DeaFestival at the Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky.

On April 17<sup>th</sup>: A planning session for the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness in Lexington. Presenters were selected for invitation to speak at the conference.

On April 17<sup>th</sup>: BellSouth Consumer Advisory Panel meeting in Louisville. Topics included the

No Call List/Telemarketing law, raises in rates for Directory Assistance and the inaccessibility of automated systems to deaf people using TTY's. Information about DeaFestival was also shared.

On April 17<sup>th</sup>: Team Leaders meeting for the Kentucky-Deaf Access Consortium meeting in Frankfort. Technology needs were discussed and a deadline of May 10<sup>th</sup> set to provide information for justification to the federal government.

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup>, and June 20<sup>th</sup>: Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet monthly meetings

On May 7<sup>th</sup>: Met in Frankfort with representatives of Medicare Services and State Health Insurance Program on DeaFestival sponsorship.

On May 17<sup>th</sup>: the Commission provided in-kind interpreting services and participated as an impromptu presenter for the Domestic Violence among Deaf Individuals workshop sponsored by ECU.

On May 28<sup>th</sup>: Deaf culture, sign language, and the use of telecommunications equipment for the deaf with the staff of the DeaFestival host hotel in Lexington.

On May 30<sup>th</sup>: Keynote speech during the Kentucky School for the Deaf High School Awards Banquet in Danville.

On May 30<sup>th</sup>: DVR Commissioner Sam Serraglio's retirement party, over 300 Vocational Rehabilitation personnel attended.

On May 31<sup>st</sup>: The Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort focusing predominately on DeaFestival since they provide the Kentucky Folklife Festival.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>: Washington, DC working with NAD staff to finalize program/performance plans for the NAD conference (Tour de DeaFestival).

On June 5<sup>th</sup>: Outreach training regarding DeaFestival to CSD staff in Sioux Falls, SD.

On June 5<sup>th</sup>: Kentucky Board of Education meeting in Frankfort during the Report of the Audit of the Kentucky School for the Deaf and the Kentucky School for the Blind and the recommendations of the American Institutes of Research. The Board voted to accept the report (which is not the same as adopting the recommendations) but they will closely look at each recommendation and move forward if appropriate.

On June 12<sup>th</sup>: The Mental Health Advisory Committee meeting in Frankfort to focus on Mandate 4 which is to identify a plan to address unmet service needs and long term goals and other issues pertaining to Mental Health Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals.

Between June 19-30<sup>th</sup>, numerous radio, TV and newspapers interviews were given about DeaFestival.

On June 20<sup>th</sup>: The Cabinet meeting in Richmond on the campus of ECU, which focused on the Governor's Scholars Program. The purpose was to educate and expose Education Arts and Humanities Cabinet sister agencies to the program and for agencies to get a taste of what the students experience as scholars. The Executive Director visited a class that was focusing on disability issues, gave an impromptu lesson on deafness to the students and was asked several questions by the students.



On June 23<sup>rd</sup>: Kentucky Association of the Deaf – Kentucky School for the Deaf Alumni Association Joint Board meeting to discuss the Kentucky School for the Deaf situation.

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, KCDHH brought Peter Cook for a special appearance at the Governor's School for the Arts at Transylvania University.

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, KCDHH brought the Wild Zappers for a special appearance at the Governor's School for the Arts at Transylvania University.

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, KCDHH introduced Phyllis Frelich to at least 300 GSA and GSP students at the Spotlights tent to discuss the impact of being deaf or hard of hearing in Hollywood.

**KCDHH Goal IV: Empower constituents by providing leadership, training, advocacy, educational and awareness programs and services.**

On June 29, after the DeaFestival closing ceremonies, the Executive Director and the visual and performing artists involved with DeaFestival held an “open dialogue” on improvements/suggestions that the artists would like to see included in DeaFestival. Many suggested two week long artist retreats prior and adjacent to the next DeaFestival, where perhaps the performers and visual artists could see each other's work, since many times they are confined to their tents and booths and do not get to enjoy the cultural experience of DeaFestival.

KCDHH also provided advocacy in 145 situations in the form of phone calls, referrals to agencies that can assist, and ADA information in situations involving doctors' offices, landlords, the court system, and others.

**KCDHH Goal V: Improve support of people in our organization to create a work environment that fosters productivity and innovation.**

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, recent updates to the centralized database for the staff were presented and discussed. This training took place at the Commission office.

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, training on videoconferencing and using Video Relay Interpreting was given to the summer staff. This training took place at the Commission office.

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, training on the centralized database was given to summer staff. This training took place at the Commission office.

On June 25<sup>th</sup>, closing package training (closing out the books for the end of the fiscal year) in Frankfort was completed. The purpose was to inform the staff of the status of the commonwealth and how the Governor has decided to carry on in the absence of an enacted budget. He has implemented a “spending plan” that virtually mirrors House Bill 1 (House version), with a few exceptions that attorneys feel the Governor does not have the authority to enact.